Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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PRS-01 PA-02 EB-07 OMB-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 STR-04

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UNCLAS CARACAS 1561

FOR: STATE FOR NIEBURG ARA/PAF/S/PRS; USIA FOR ILA/RODGERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: QUESTIONS FOR RESUMEN MAGAZINE

REF: NEWMAN/NIEBURG TELCON 2/9

1. PER REFTELCOM, FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY VENEZUELA'S LEADING NEWSMAGAZINE RESUMEN. RESUMEN WOULD LIKE QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY HIGH LEVEL NUMBER KISSINGER PARTY (PLEASE IDENTIFY)

AS PART OF COVER STORY ON SECRETARY'S VISIT. ISSUE WILL BE ON NEWSTANDS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16. MAGAZINE GOES TO PRESS FRIDAY, THEREFORE NEED RESPONSE BEFORE COB THURSDAY, FEB. 12.

2. BEGIN QUESTIONS:

A. US IMPORTS OF VENEZUELAN OIL FELL BY HALF A MILLION BARRELS IN 1975, DOES THIS MEAN THE BEGINNING OF A TREND AWAY FROM TRADITIONAL SOURCES AND A MOVE TOWEARD GREATER RELIANCE ON MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN PRODUCERS AS WLL AS NEW SOURCES?

B. IS PART OF YOUR MISSION TO SEEK A LOWERING OR OIL PRICES OR AT LEAST TO ASK VENEZUELA TO EXERT INFLUENCE AS A MODERATING VOICE INSIDE OPEC? UNCLASSIFIED

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C. IT IS ALMOST A YEAR SINCE PRESIDENT FORD PROMISED ACTION TO AMEND THE CLAUSES IN THE TRADE ACT THAT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR. HWAT CAN BE DONE NOW AND UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES TO ELIMINATE THE CLAUSE? WHAT IS THE REACTION IN WASHINGTON TO THE MANY REQUESTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF LOCAL AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, MADE IN BEHALF OF ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA?

D. DESPITE PRESIDENT FORD'S WARNING THAT CUBA'S INTERVENTION IN THE ANGOLAN WAR MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK ABOUT RELATIONS WITH FIDEL CASTOR'S GOVERNMENT, GROUPS OF US CORPORATIONS SEEM TO BE INTERESTED IN TRADE WITH CUBA. WHAT WILL BE THE REAL TREND THIS YEAR IN WASHINGTON IN DEALING WITH THE CUBAN ISSUE?

E. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE RECENTLY ORGANIZED SELA (LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM)?

F. IT THE SO CALLED "SPIRIT OF TLATELOLCO DEAD? IF SO, WAS IT KILLED BY THE US TRADE ACT?

G. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT A SETTLEMENT WITH PANAMA WILL START AN ERA OF BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA. ARE YOU SO OPTIMISTIC? END QUESTIONS. SHLAUDEMAN

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